MISSY COMICS

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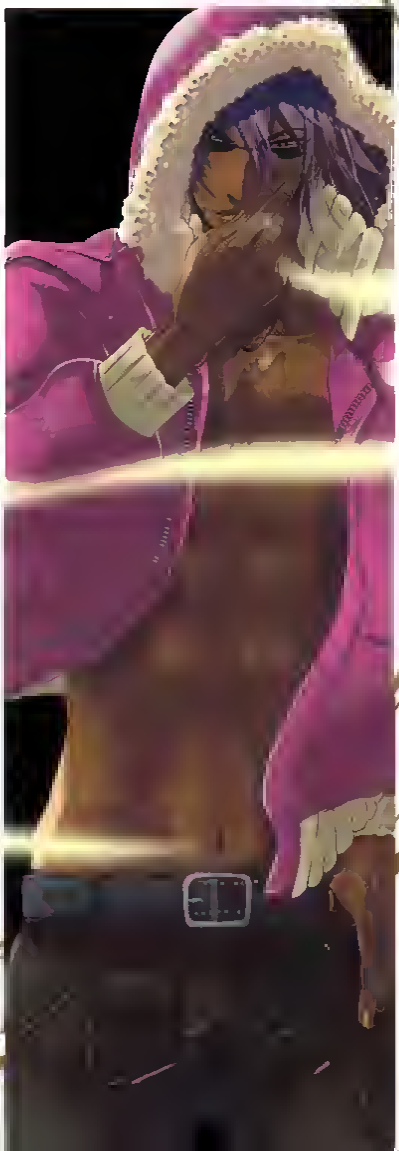


さぎり和紗
WasaSagiri Presents

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER (2)

さぎり和紗
WasoSagiri Presents

LULU
FOUR'S ONLY DAUGHTER.

LUTEEN
SALIM'S NEWLY APPOINTED CONSUL.

SKAZY
A MONSTER TAKEN IN BY LULU. HAS AMNESIA.

FOUR
THE FOURTH PRINCE. ELEVEN AND TWELVE'S HALF BROTHER.

KOYUKI
A SIXTEEN YEAR-OLD WHO WORKS AT A TAVERN IN THE PORT OF SALIM. ORPHANED WHEN HER PARENTS WERE KILLED BY IMPERIAL TROOPS IN AN UPRISING.

THE STORY SO FAR

THE VAST DESERT EMPIRE OF ORCHIS. KOYUKI, A GIRL WHO LIVES IN THE CAPITAL'S PORT CITY OF SALIM, WAS TROUBLED BY THE CONSUL'S ADVANCES UNTIL THE TWIN PRINCES OF THE EMPIRE SAVED HER.

THE PRINCES BEGIN TO INVITE HER TO THE PALACE, AND SHE BECOMES CLOSER TO THEM, BUT SHE ALSO BEGINS TO LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT THE EMPIRE, STARTING WITH ITS BIRTH MYTHS.

AT THE SAME TIME, A STRANGE VISITOR NAMED SKAZY WHO HAS AMNESIA APPEARS BEFORE TWELVE'S OLDER BROTHER PRINCE FOUR...

CAST

TWELVE
THE TWELFTH PRINCE AND SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE. ELEVEN'S YOUNGER TWIN. AS PER THE ORIGIN MYTH, HE WILL UNDERGO THE RITE OF SUCCESSION IN ONE YEAR AND BECOME THE NEXT EMPEROR OF ORCHIS.

ELEVEN
THE ELEVENTH PRINCE AND TWELVE'S TWIN BROTHER. BORN TO THE FATE OF BEING THE DEMON "IBLIS" FROM THE ORCHIS ORIGIN MYTH AND ALREADY A MONK OF ISAISM.

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 5:
IN SEARCH OF SKAZY
(PART TWO) - 6

CHAPTER 6:
THOSE WHO OPPOSE GOD - 47

CHAPTER 7:
A PIRATE'S PRIDE - 81

CHAPTER 8:
THE WANDERERS - 123

SKAZY'S ELEGANT AND SERVILE
DAYS - 165

HUFF
HUFF

HUFF
...HUH?!

HUFF
HUFF
THAT DREAM AGAIN...
WHUMP
WHAT IN THE WORLD DID I DO?

CHAPTER 5: IN SEARCH OF SKAZY (PART TWO)

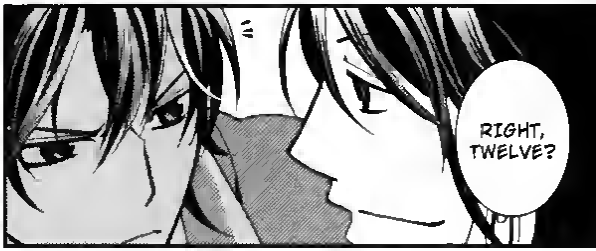
"SKAZY," WAS IT?
HE SEEMS LIKE A VERY PLEASANT FELLOW.
YES. AND MISS LULU HAS REALLY TAKEN A LIKING TO HIM.
IS HE ONE OF THOSE "MONSTERS"?
I WONDER IF THAT MAN I RAN INTO THE OTHER DAY WAS ONE TOO...
YEAH, BUT YOU DON'T SEE MANY OF THEM IN ORCHIS.
IT'S CREEPY.

GIGGLE
NOT EVEN YOU?
BUT IF HE WENT OUT OF CONTROL, THERE'S NO WAY US NORMAL HUMANS COULD STOP HIM!
REALLY? BUT HE'S SO SWEET, AND I THINK HE HAS A REAL TALENT FOR BABY-SITTING
WELL, WHAT ABOUT YOU, PRINCE ELEVEN?
IT DOES LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN SKIPPING TRAINING LATELY, TWELVE.
GRR...
AHAHA! THERE'S NO FOOLING YOU, MISS KOYUKI!

SHUT UP!
DON'T TALK TO ME UNLESS IT'S IMPORTANT.
...OH? YOU'RE CERTAINLY IN A BAD MOOD, TWELVE.
TWIST
SMOOCH
DOES PRINCE FOUR TRAIN TOO?
HE HANDLES HIMSELF VERY GRACEFULLY.
TH-THANK YOU.
GET OFFA ME!
KOYU, THIS JELLY'S REALLY DELI-CIOUS!

YEAH, HE'S ON A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LEVEL.
?

OH, OUR BROTHER DOESN'T REALLY TRAIN... PER SE...


RIGHT, TWELVE?

ZY!
BUY ME THIS!

BOING
ぴょん
BUT DON'T YOU THINK...
YOU'VE BOUGHT ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY?
Y-YOU WANT TO BUY MORE THINGS, MISS LULU?
I DO!
BUY MY DAUGHTER ANYTHING SHE ASKS FOR!
...IS WHAT HE SAID...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ALL THIS STUFF?
HUH? WELL...
I ONLY WEAR MY CLOTHES ONE TIME.
YOU ONLY WEAR THEM ONCE?
I ONLY PLAY WITH MY TOYS ONCE TOO.
SHE TREATS HER CLOTHES AND TOYS ALL AS DISPOS-ABLE?!
BUT THAT'S SUCH A WASTE...
WELL...

I'M CUTE,
SO I CAN GET AWAY WITH ANY-THING.
THIS IS HOW THEY'VE RAISED HER?!
BUY ME THIS TOO!
MISS LULU!
LU?
WE'RE ALL STRUGGLING TO LIVE OUR LIVES!
YOU'RE OF ROYAL BIRTH! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR THE CITIZENS!
THAT ANIMAL ISN'T A TOY!
YOU CAN'T JUST THROW IT AWAY WHEN YOU GET BORED WITH IT!
GH...
MISS LULU!

UWAAAAAAAAAAH!
WAIT!
MISS LULU!
WHISPER
WHISPER
WAAAH! ZY'S BEING MEAN!
GLANCE
GLANCE
HUH?
WHO IS THAT GUY?
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY!
WHAP

I KNOW IT WAS OUT OF LINE FOR A STRANGER LIKE ME TO BUTT INTO YOUR BUSINESS!
BUT...
AND I APOLOGIZE IF I OFFENDED YOU!
I ASK THAT YOU DON'T FORGET...
TO CARE FOR OTHERS THE SAME WAY YOU CARE FOR ME.
IF YOU CAN'T CARE FOR... CAN'T TRUST OTHERS,
YOU'LL ONLY GET HURT...
AND ONE DAY, YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF ALL ALONE.

...ME EITHER, MISS LULU.
CLENCH...
I DON'T WANNA BE ALONE.
NONE OF US CAN LIVE ALONE.

ZY SAID THAT?
WHY, THAT'S WONDERFUL! HOW DARLING.
THAT I'D BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING "KODOMON" HAPPY!
YEAH! I MADE A PROMISE WITH ZY!
GEHEHEH

IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOOD WITH CHILDREN.
I'M NOT A CHILDREN!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE A FINE LADY.
SO IS ZY TO YOUR LIKING, MILADY?
I'M HONORED, BUT...
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT YOU MEAN.
UM... WELL...
HE'S LIKE YOU, PAPA!
HUH? LIKE ME?
LIKE HOW HE'S SO NICE...
AND HOW HE'S LONELY.

THE SKAZY IN MY BOOK...
HE'S REAL LONELY.
HE WANTS TO BE NICE TO EVERY-BODY...
BUT HE ENDS UP ALL ALONE.
BECAUSE HE'S STRONGER THAN EVERY-BODY ELSE..
HE'S LONELY.

...THANK YOU,
LULU.

BUT PAPA ISN'T LONELY.
REALLY?
REALLY.
BECAUSE I'VE GOT YOU AND ZY.
OH! THAT'S RIGHT!

YOU'RE IN MY WAY.
THUD
ズズ
OW!
YOU WERE LOOKING KIND OF NEEDY...
CONSIDER IT A GIFT.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO KICK ME!
I WOULD HAVE MOVED IF YOU JUST ASKED!
GRR!
WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM?!

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, OFFICER?!
IF YOU THINK THINGS WILL ALWAYS GO YOUR WAY, THEN YOU'RE WAY OFF!
PRETTY SOON, I'M GONNA LOSE MY PATIENCE WITH YOU!
YOU'RE ALL TALK, FUSE.
A REAL MAN WOULDN'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF...
AND YOU RELY TOO MUCH ON FORCE!
IT'S A MONSTER.
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?!
HEY, LOOK AT THAT.

THIS IS CUTE!
MISS LULU, YOU SHOULDN'T WASTE MONEY...
...CAN'T YOU BE A LITTLE MORE CONSIDERATE OF ME?
I AM BEING CONSIDERATE. ☆
AREN'T YOU HAPPY YOU GET TO SPEND TIME WITH ME?
FLATTERY WILL GET YOU NOWHERE.
...I FEEL LIKE YOU'VE TRICKED ME SOMEHOW.
HEE HEE HEE! ♥
MISS LULU, WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
ZOOM
WHAP
LU!

...HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT HAPPENED TO KING LOBSTER?
DID YOU BETRAY US AFTER ALL?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
EEK!
MISS LULU!
WHUMP
DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME!
I KNOW SHE'S FROM THE ROYAL FAMILY!
SHE'S JUST A KID...
DON'T HURT HER!

SHK
?!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MODERATES ARE PLANNING, BUT...
STOP!
THEN WILL YOU DO IT?
IF YOU WON'T DO IT, THEN I WILL! AS LONG AS THE ROYALS EXIST, WE'LL NEVER FIND HAPPINESS!
I DON'T HAVE ALL DAY...

SHE'S GONNA DIE...

WHOA! WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?!
SKAZY?

HE'S REVERTED TO HIS MONSTER INSTINCTS
ZY?
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
STOP!
STOP, ZY! HE'LL DIE!

YOU CAN'T, ZY!
LULU!
YEESH...
THE BAD THING ABOUT MONSTERS IS THAT NO ONE CAN STOP THEM ONCE THEY SNAP.
SHK!

MISTER FOUR!
...DON'T TELL ME!
JUDGING FROM HIS LOOKS, I'D SAY HE'S ABOUT A MID-LEVEL MONSTER.
ONCE YOU MAKE A CONTRACT WITH THEM,
A MONSTER WILL OBEY YOU AS LOYALY AS A DOG.
AND YOU'RE PLANNING TO DO IT YOURSELF?!
WHOA, WAIT A SECOND! CUT IT OUT, FOUR!
HELP ME STOP HIM, ELEVEN!
SO IT WOULD SEEM.

I WISH YOU LUCK, MY BROTHER.
THAT'S NOT STOPPING HIM!
NOW THEN...
YOU SURE MADE A FINE MESS OF THE PLACE.

WHAT'S WRONG? CAN'T YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR FRIENDS AND FOES?

YOUR LITTLE PRANK HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH...
SKAZY.
CLACK
SHK
WHAM

WHAM
WH-WH-WHA?!
PAPA'S STRONG!
THEY'LL DESTROY THE TAVERN!
FOUR'S SO STRONG...
IT ISN'T EVEN FUNNY.
WHEN HE WAS YOUNG HE LEFT TO TRAIN ON A WARRIOR'S JOURNEY.
HE WON THE ORCHIS IMPERIAL JUJUTSU TOURNAMENT TWENTY FIVE TIMES IN A ROW.
HE WAS THE CHAMPION EMERITUS OF THE WESTERN CONTINENT'S MARTIAL ARTS LEAGUE.
AND HE MADE IT INTO THE ZABAC NO-HOLDS-BARRED DEATH MATCH HALL OF FAME
HE'S GOT THE FIGHTING CAREER OF A DEMON...

I DIDN'T SPEND MY YEARS SITTING ON MY BUTT.
IF YOU DON'T PUT A LITTLE MORE EFFORT INTO IT, WHAT'S THE POINT OF EVEN FIGHTING?
I KNOW YOU'VE GOT MORE THAN THAT IN YOU.
WHAP
ZOOM
GASP
GOOD BOY.
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT.

SHK
BUT...
I GUESS I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY WITH YOU ALL DAY.
SHP
SHK
CLENCH
I'M SORRY, SIR...
I'LL COMPENSATE YOU FOR THE DAMAGES TWOFOLD.

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
CRACK
!
HE... HE DID IT!
M-MY TAVERN!
PULL IT TOGETHER, BOSS!

HAVE YOU COME TO YOUR SENSES?
...WHAT IN THE WORLD DID I...
I'VE DONE IT AGAIN... !!
WHUMP

IT'S... NO USE.
ZY.
I KNEW I COULDN'T STAY WITH YOU...
I HAVE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE.
A VERY TERRIFYING DREAM...
I HAVE THIS DREAM...
I JUST KNOW THAT ONE DAY I'M GOING TO HURT SOME-ONE LIKE I DID IN THAT DREAM...!
WHERE MY HANDS ARE STAINED CRIMSON WITH BLOOD...
"SKAZY."

AND TRY TO DO ANYTHING TO LULU...
I'LL KILL YOU.
DON'T WORRY. IF YOU LOSE YOUR MIND...
THEN...
THEN I...

I CAN...
STAY HERE?
WHAT A STUPID QUESTION.
WHO IS YOUR MASTER?
TELL ME.
!
Y-YOU, SIR!
VERY GOOD. CONTRACT COMPLETE.

WHUMP
WAH!
HOORAY!
I KNEW IT! YOU ARE MY SKAZY!
ZY!
MISS LULU!
I LOVE YOU!
M-
BLU
USH
MISS LULU!

...WHAT ?!
YOU GOTTA GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER IF YOU'RE GONNA BE MY HUSBAND, ZY.
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT?
YOU'RE GONNA BE MY HUSBAND.
GRIN
ZY...
HUS-BAND... HAHAHA!
UM...
...HOW IMMATURE.
WAIT, SHE'S JUST A KID! SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS!
WE'RE GETTIN' MARRIED!
HUH ?!
COME TO MY ROOM LATER.

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER

I'M SCARED.
...IT'S DARK...
I CAN'T FIND THE DOOR...
SOME-BODY!
TWELVE?

THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN?
I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE TREASURE VAULT?
LOOK WHAT I FOUND.
A LAMP?
WHUMP
WAAAH! I WAS SO SCARED!
JEEZ... YOU'RE SUCH A CRY-BABY.
わぁぁ

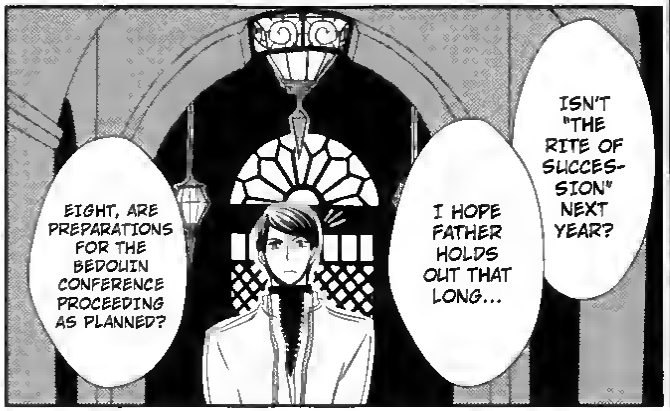
YEAH,
I THOUGHT WE COULD PLAY MAGIC LAMP.
MAGIC LAMP?!
YEAH, IF YOU MAKE A WISH ON IT, IT'LL COME TRUE.
WOW, THAT'S AWE-SOME!
LET ME SEE!
HEY, NO FAIR!
I WANNA BE A GOOD KING LIKE FATHER!
YOU WANNA BE THE KING?
YEAH!
YOU KNOW HOW FATHER'S THE GOD OF ORCHIS? THE KING IS THE STRONGEST, MOST AWESOMEST GUY AROUND!

MOTHER! FATHER!
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
YES, MAMA THINKS SO TOO.
I KNOW YOU'LL BE A MUCH BETTER EMPEROR THAN I.

TWELVE, YOU WERE CHOSEN BY GOD.
YOU ARE "ISA," THE GOD OF LIGHT.
YOU ARE MY ONLY LIGHT.

CHAPTER 6: THOSE WHO OPPOSE GOD

IT'S HARD TO BELIVE IT'S ALREADY BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE FATHER COLLAPSED.
IT WENT BY SO FAST...


ISN'T "THE RITE OF SUCCES-SION" NEXT YEAR?
I HOPE FATHER HOLDS OUT THAT LONG...
EIGHT, ARE PREPARATIONS FOR THE BEDOUIN CONFERENCE PROCEEDING AS PLANNED?

...OUR EMPIRE OF ORCHIS IS A MULTI-CULTURAL LAND ENCOMPASSING MANY DESERT PEOPLES.

SMALL RIFTS CAN BECOME GREAT GULFS.

YES, NO PROBLEMS TO SPEAK OF.

ALTHOUGH THE LARGE SCALE DID MAKE THE PREPARATIONS RATHER TIME-CONSUMING. OVER THIRTY TRIBES WILL BE ATTENDING.
THAT MANY?!

YOU MEAN THE "MUZAHALLA," THE ONES WHO PREACH...
"THE HERO MYTH"?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ANTI-ROYALIST ACTIVITIES ARE ON THE RISE AMONG THE BEDOUIN.
THERE ARE THOSE AMONG THEM THAT SPEAK OF A BLASPHEMOUS MYTH.

NOW, WHAT ABOUT "THE RITE OF BETROTHAL"?
DOESN'T IT NEED TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE "THE RITE OF SUCCESSION"?
THIS ALL MAKES MY HEAD HURT..
INDEED.
THEY HAVE AMASSED A FORCE WE CANNOT AFFORD TO IGNORE.

WAIT, A MOMENT ..
WASN'T THERE A GIRL WITH FEELINGS FOR HIM AROUND?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT TWELVE SAYS. WE'LL MAKE THE DECISION OURSELVES.
THERE IS NO NEED TO RUSH. WE HAVE PLENTY OF CANDI-DATES.
IT'S UNHEARD-OF TO WAIT SO LONG TO CHOOSE THE BRIDE.
IT SEEMS LIKE TWELVE HAS SOME IDEA OF HIS OWN...
IDEA?
THE SHAMS, EH?
YES, THEY'VE SERVED THE ROYAL FAMILY EVEN MORE FAITHFULLY THAN THE OTHER BEDOUIN... THIS WOULD BE A GOOD CHANCE TO DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM.
WELL, IF ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN, WE'LL SELECT THE SHAMS GIRL WITH "THE POWER OF FORE-SIGHT..." UM... THE CHIEF'S DAUGHTER...
DO YOU MEAN SAKURA?
YES, THAT'S THE ONE!

TWELVE'S WILL IS UNNECESSARY IN CHOOSING THE EMPRESS.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO LET US LIVE IN THE PALACE. A CHEAP APARTMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE...
I'M SORRY! THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, SKAZY.
YEAH, FOUR'S THE ONE WHO WRECK-ED THE TAVERN
YOU'RE MY GUEST, SO ACT LIKE IT!
I WON'T LET ANYONE GIVE YOU GRIEF.

JEEZ! WHERE'D OUR DEMOLITION MAN RUN OFF TO ANYWAY?!
SH-
SHUT UP!
WHY DON'T YOU LOOK ME IN THE FACE WHEN YOU SAY THAT?
LOOK, LOOK!
THIS IS "SKAZY"!
WOW, HE DOES!
"THE RULER OF TIME"?
DOESN'T HE LOOK JUST LIKE ZY?!

WHAT KIND OF STORY IS IT?
A STORY ABOUT THE "ORIGIN MYTH."
THE "ORIGIN MYTH"?
AT THE DAWN OF THE WORLD, A PAIR OF TWINS WERE BORN.
THE ELDEST, IBLIS, RULED THE DARKNESS. THE YOUNGEST, ISA, RULED THE LIGHT.
IBLIS BECAME A DEMON AND TRIED TO WRAP THE WORLD IN DARKNESS, BUT ISA DEFEATED IBLIS AND STOPPED HIM.
THE WORLD WAS DIVIDED INTO ONE OF TWELVE HOURS OF LIGHT AND TWELVE HOURS OF DARKNESS.

AND, SEALING IBLIS'S EVIL BEHIND HIM...
ISA BECAME THE EMPEROR.
THIS WAS THE BIRTH OF THE ORCHIS EMPIRE.
THAT IS THE ISAIST ORIGIN MYTH.
IS THAT BOOK ANY GOOD?

WHO ARE YOU CALLING UNCLE?!
UNCLE SEVEN!
SEVEN?
HE'S THE SEVENTH PRINCE.
H-HE'S BEAUTIFUL...
THAT'S A BOY ?!
HUH ?!

THAT'S RIGHT.
WHEN TWELVE TURNS TWENTY, HE WILL ASCEND THE THRONE.
THAT'S THE NAME OF THE CEREMONY IN WHICH HE TAKES THE THRONE
THE "ORIGIN MYTH," EH?
WHAT A GLORIOUS TRADITION OUR ANCESTORS PASSED DOWN TO US...
EVEN "THE RITE OF SUCCESSION" IS BASED ON IT...
"THE RITE OF SUCCES-SION"?
"ISA" HAS TO DEFEAT "IBLIS" JUST LIKE IN THE LEGEND.
?
THEN TWELVE HAS TO BEAT PRINCE ELEVEN?

IT'S JUST AN ACT FOR THE CEREMONY.
OF COURSE, I'M NOT GOING TO KILL HIM OR ANY-THING.
BUT...
HE'LL NEVER SEE ELEVEN AGAIN.
HUH?
BECAUSE THEY ARE "ISA" AND "IBLIS..."
THEY CAN'T SEE EACH OTHER FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.
THOSE ARE THE RULES.

BUT!
AS A LOATHSOME ENEMY OF THE FAITH, "IBLIS" MUST BE KEPT UNDER THE STRICT SUPERVISION OF ISAISM.
IF HE ISN'T, THE COUNTRY CANNOT STAND.
BUT WHY DO THEY HAVE TO BE SEPARATED FOR LIFE?
YOU CAN ADDRESS YOUR COMPLAINTS TO "ISAISM."
EVEN THE SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE CAN'T JUST DEFY THE CHURCH ON A WHIM.
THERE'S NOTHING TWELVE CAN DO ABOUT IT.

I'LL CHANGE THINGS.
I SWEAR IT.
OH?
I'D EXPECT NO LESS FROM THE EMPEROR'S FAVORED SON.
I DO HUMBLY APOLO-GIZE.
I EXPECT GREAT THINGS OF YOU, LORD ISA.
H-HE'S KIND OF AN AMAZING FELLOW, ISN'T HE?
HE IS?

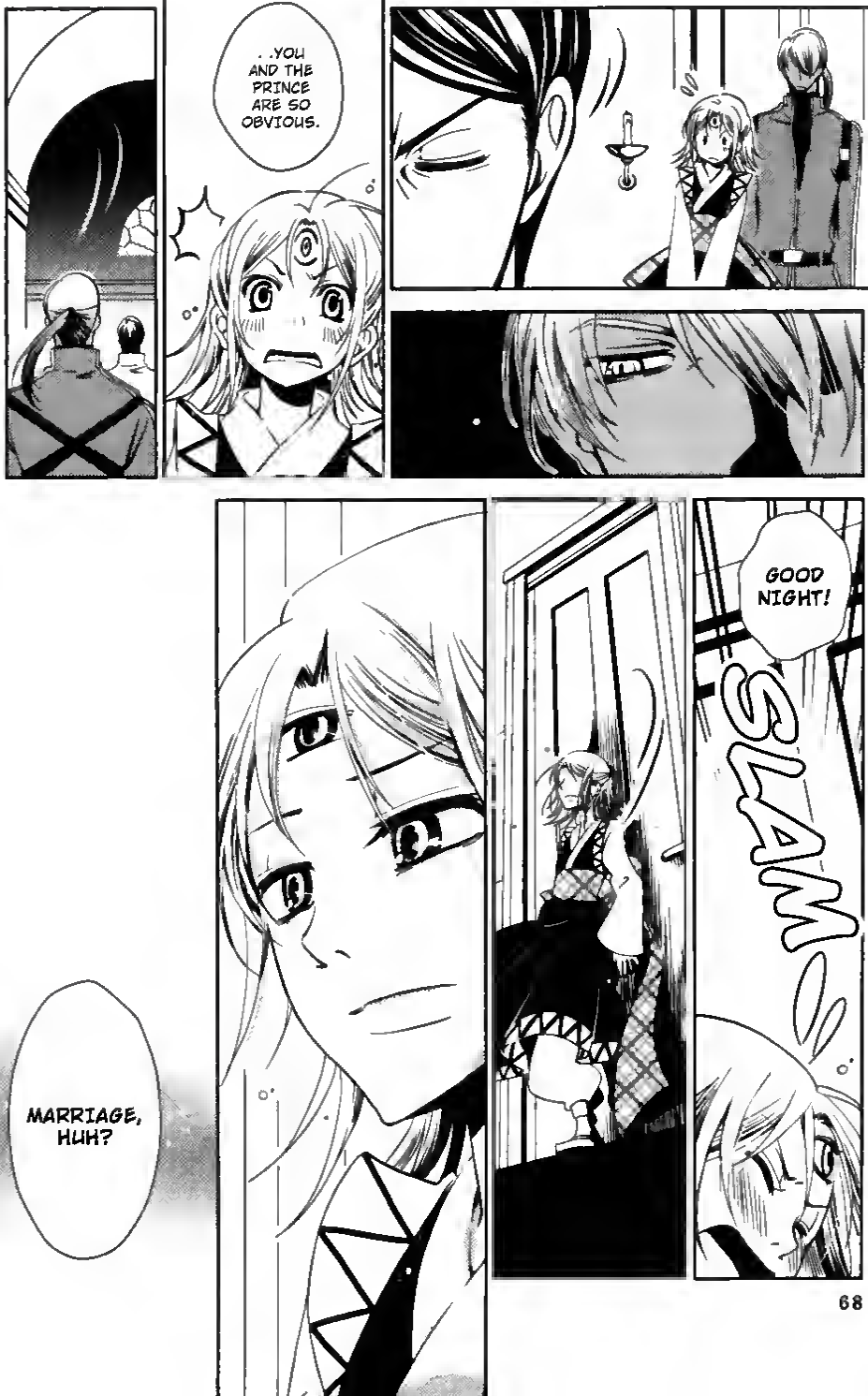
...TWELVE.

KNOCK KNOCK
ARE YOU THERE, SAKURA?

ARE MASTERS SECOND AND THIRD DOING WELL?
YES...
YES.
WELCOME HOME, PRINCE EIGHT.

"THE RITE OF SUCCESSION" IS COMING UP SOON...
AND IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE NUMBER ONE ON THE LIST OF CANDIDATES.
I AM NOT WORTHY OF SUCH AN HONOR.
...
IS IT ABOUT THE CROWN PRINCE'S BETROTHAL?
OH...
WELL... YES.
IF YOU DEIGN TO CHOSE ME, I WILL GLADLY ACCEPT.
...YOU WILL?
TO WE, THE SHAMS PEOPLE...
WHO HAVE BEEN BESTOWED WITH THE BLESSINGS OF ISAISM, THIS IS THE GREATEST HONOR IMAGINABLE

CRASH
DID I HEAR THAT YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND WILL BE ATTENDING THE UPCOMING BEDOUIN CONFERENCE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NAJM?
THAT ASIDE, SAKURA...
REALLY?
WELL, YOU MUST BE TIRED. WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME REST?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SAKURA?
N-NO-THING!
YES, SIR
GOOD NIGHT
SIR, THE CHIEF OF THE ZELZAL IS WAITING FOR YOU
THANK YOU, HADEED. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE


. .YOU AND THE PRINCE ARE SO OBVIOUS.
GOOD NIGHT!
SLAM
MARRIAGE, HUH?

FIDGET FIDGET
LOOK.
ME AND TWELVE JUST MADE A WISH ON THIS MAGIC LAMP.
FATHER!
...
HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR DUTIES FOR THE DAY?
DO NOT FORGET WHO YOU ARE.
UM...
...OH, UM... NO.
NOT YET...
...I'M SORRY.

YES, SIR.
KNOW YOUR POSITION.
WHAT THE WORLD SEEKS IN TWELVE IS NOT WHAT IT SEEKS IN YOU.
GOOD. AS LONG AS YOU UNDER-STAND. NOW LEAVE US.
YES, FATHER!

PRINCE ELEVEN?
MICHAELA.
OH, THAT'S YOUR MAGIC LAMP, ISN'T IT? THAT REALLY TAKES ME BACK.
YES, YOU REMEMBER IT?
OF COURSE, YOU USED TO PLAY WITH IT ALL THE TIME WHEN YOU WERE KIDS
JUST YOU AND MASTER TWELVE.
...I DOUBT TWELVE REMEMBERS IT THOUGH

HE LOST HIS MEMORY AFTER THAT INCIDENT...
YES, MASTER TWELVE HAS NO MEMORIES OF THE TIME BEFORE YOUR MOTHER PASSED AWAY...
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A VERY TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE FOR HIM...
OH!
...I'M SORRY!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I DON'T MIND IF HE DOESN'T REMEMBER

NO...
IT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BEST THAT HE DOESN'T.
BUT LET'S DROP THIS DARK SUBJECT.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A WISH, MICHAELA?
NO, THANK YOU.
I'M SATISFIED WITH MY LIFE AS IS.
...YOU SURE ARE EASY TO PLEASE.
EXCESS DESIRE IS BAD FOR THE BODY.
YOU'RE A DRY ONE, MICHAELA.

"WHEN THE ELDER TWIN, IBLIS, SPREADS HIS WINGS IN THE DESERT LAND,
THE SNOW OF JOY WILL FALL FOR ALL PEOPLES."
YES.
IT IS ONE PART OF THE "HERO MYTH" THAT HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN AMONG OUR PEOPLE, THE BEDOUIN, SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.
"THE MIRACLE OF ORCHIS"?
BUT "IBLIS" WAS PERSUED BY "ISA" AND EVENTUALLY KILLED.
THE ONE WHO BROUGHT US FREEDOM WAS NOT THE FIRST EMPEROR, BUT THE ELDER TWIN, "IBLIS."
IF HE IS "EMIR," OUR TRUE KING, THE MIRACLE OF ORCHIS MAY OCCUR A SECOND TIME. THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY...
BUT NOW, THE TWINS OF LEGEND HAVE BEEN BORN TO THE ROYAL FAMILY, AND "IBLIS" LIVES ONCE AGAIN.
WE BEDOUIN ARE WRACKED BY MISFORTUNE.
HERE, THREE HUNDRED YEARS LATER,

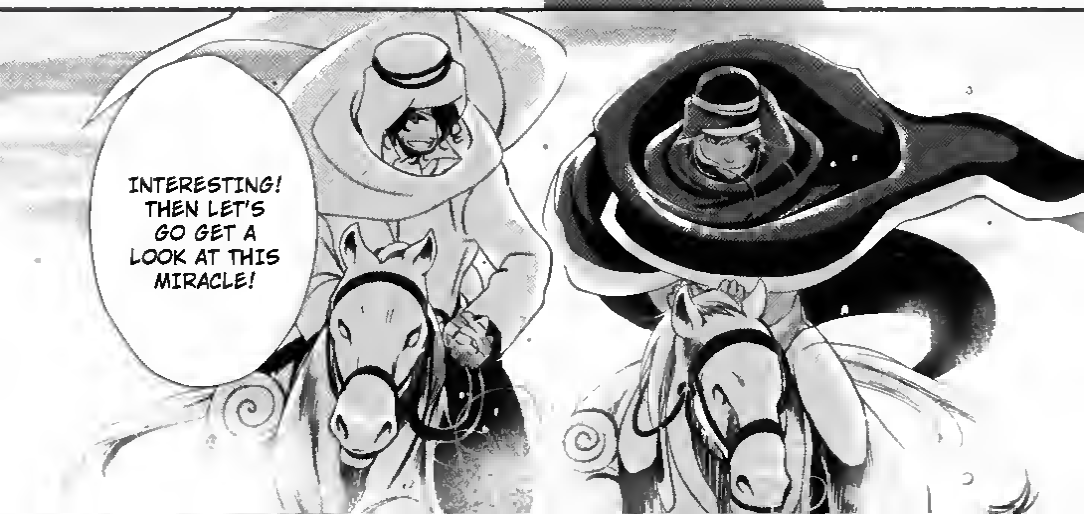
SO YOU WANT US TO ABDUCT THIS "IBLIS"?
WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME.
IN ONE YEAR IBLIS WILL BE PURGED DURING "THE RITE OF SUCCESSION."
YOU'RE SHARP, TOGRA. YOUR FATHER YUGRA WOULD BE PROUD.
I WANT YOU TO MEET IBLIS AND JUDGE...
OUR FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS.
TO BE OUR EMIR.
WHETHER OR NOT HE IS FIT...

IF HE IS OUR KING...
AND IF HE IS "EMIR"?
BRING HIM BACK TO THIS LAND WITHOUT FAIL.
WE, THE ANTI-ROYALIST "MUZAHALLA,"
WILL SECURE "EMIR..."
AND RECREATE "THE MIRACLE OF ORCHIS" WHICH ONCE BLESSED THIS LAND!

HE MIGHT BE SUPER-COOP-ERATIVE.
...OR SO HE SAYS. I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED.
BUT THIS IBLIS MAY TURN OUT TO BE A GREAT GUY ONCE WE MEET HIM!
YOU'RE PRETTY OPTI-MISTIC.
I CAN'T IMAGINE THINGS GOING THAT SMOOTHLY.
I DOUBT THIS "EMIR" IS ANYTHING BUT AN OLD WIVES' TALE.
...MAYBE YOU SHOULD THINK A LITTLE MORE.
AREN'T YOU OVER-THINKING IT, TOG?

THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT WE WON'T KNOW FOR SURE UNTIL WE MEET HIM.

"THE MIRACLE OF ORCHIS," EH?


INTERESTING! THEN LET'S GO GET A LOOK AT THIS MIRACLE!

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER

ORCHIS!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I WAS LAST HERE!
SHH
SHH
NOW I CAN FINALLY SEE MY PRINCE!
HMM?

HEY THERE, MISS!
HMM? WHO ARE YOU?
SHH
WHAT'S THIS BOAT DOING HERE?
IT DOESN'T HAVE PERMISSION TO BE IN PORT...
OH, ME?
HEH.
I'M SIR FUGI! I JUST RECENTLY BECAME AN EMPLOYEE OF THE CONSULATE!
I'M A SECURITY OFFICER UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF LORD LUTEEN!
THUNK
YOU TRYING TO STOP ME?!
HUH?!
CLANG
HEY!
NO, WAIT! WAIT! WAIT!
!!

BAM BAM
FIRE !!
CHAPTER SEVEN: A PIRATE'S PRIDE

IT'S REALLY STARTING TO COME TOGETHER NOW, HUH?
SLAM
SLAM
DOESN'T IT LOOK COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN IT DID BEFORE?
THE EMPEROR'S FOOTING THE BILL, SO THEY'RE MILKING IT FOR ALL IT'S WORTH
ALL THE TRACES OF THE OLD TAVERN ARE GONE.
I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH FROM BEFORE POPS TOOK ME IN...
ZOOM
"ZOOM"?
SO IT'S A LITTLE SAD.

WH-WH-WHAT IN THE WORLD?!
BOOM
A CANNON ?!
IS THAT... ?!

WHY NOT? WE NEVER GET TO SEE EACH OTHER.
HOW COLD.
WHY, THE THREE OF US WERE INSEPARABLE IN OUR ACADEMY DAYS.
GRR!
I NEVER CONSIDERED YOU TWO FRIENDS, EVEN FOR A SECOND!
WHAT?
WHY DO YOU THINK?! BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU!
GARTER SAYS HE'S NOT COMING TO THE REUNION.
SLAM
LOOKS LIKE HE'S STILL BASHFUL.

"THE PEARL PRINCESS OF THE DING XIANG," YUAN FANG LONG.
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK I AM?!
OW! OW! OW! OW!
GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME, YOU OAF!
HUH?
LONG TIME NO SEE, YUAN.
BOSS, THIS SCOUNDREL ENTERED PORT AND FIRED HER CANNONS WITHOUT PERMISSION, SO I BROUGHT HER IN!
...BEG PARDON?

AS ALWAYS, YOU LOOK WELL.
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED EITHER, "BALD-EAGLE OF CAPE RADIZAN," LUTEEN PAI LONG.
UP TO NO GOOD WITH ELEVEN AGAIN?
...
...FANG LONG?
SHE'S ONE OF THE FANG LONG CLAN.
YOU MEAN THE TAIHO PIRATE FAMILY?!
THAT'S RIGHT. THE BUSINESS RIVALS OF MY OWN PAI LONG FAMILY.
SHE MUST BE LOADED!
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHERE'S TWELVE?

HE ISN'T HERE.
YOU ALWAYS GET IN MY WAY!
PERVERT! SICKO!
YOU'RE UN-CLEAN!
YOU CREEP ME OUT!
YOU BROTHER-LOVER!
YOU DON'T MINCE WORDS, DO YOU?
ARE YOU HIDING HIM AGAIN, ELEVEN?!
BUT UNFORTU-NATELY...
TWELVE IS WITH A GIRL RIGHT NOW.
WHAAAAAT?!

TWELVE !!!
WHUMP
I MISSED YOU SO MUCH!
I-I KNEW THAT WAS YOUR SHIP!
TWELVE!
HUH ?!
THERE'S ONLY A YEAR LEFT TILL "THE RITE OF BETROTHAL," SO I CAME TO MAKE SURE.
YOU ARE GOING TO PICK ME, RIGHT?
WHEN WE WERE KIDS, YOU PROMISED YOU WOULD!
HOW LONG DOES A GIRL HAVE TO WAIT?!
W-WHEN DID I SAY I'D CHOOSE YOU?

WHAP
SHUT UP AND GO HOME!
THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT!
I'LL BET YOU CAME HERE WITHOUT YOUR PARENTS' PERMISSION, DIDN'T YOU?!
WHOOSH
OHH ?!
YOU DUMMY !!
THAT GIRL...
...IT ISN'T SAFE FOR HER TO BE IN ORCHIS NOW.
SHE'S TWELVE'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND. SHE'S LIKE A SISTER TO HIM.
SHUT UP.
TWELVE, YOU DOG.

YUAN!!
YUAN!
TWELVE.
WOW, YOUR HOUSE IS REALLY COOL!
THERE'S PONDS EVERY-WHERE!
IT'S CONNECTED TO THE OCEAN SO SHIPS CAN GET IN.
YEAH, THE FANG LONGS ARE A LONG-STANDING PIRATE FAMILY.
THAT'S RIGHT! PAPA AND MAMA ARE PROUD WARRIORS OF THE SEA!

SO? LET 'EM!
THERE'S A LOT MORE PEOPLE OUT THERE THAT RESPECT THE HOUSE OF FANG LONG
THEY CALL US HOOD-LUMS!
EVERYBODY SAYS THAT... PIRATES ARE EVIL SCOUNDRELS THAT ARE NO BETTER THAN THIEVES.
HUH?
...BUT EVERYONE CALLS US BAD GUYS...
ALL THOSE PEOPLE WOULDN'T LIKE YOU IF YOU WERE BAD GUYS.
AND YOU SHOULD KNOW BEST, RIGHT?
JUST HOW KIND YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER ARE?
THEY'RE REALLY COOL!
PLUS, PIRATES ARE AWESOME!
YEAH, LIKE NUMBER FOUR AFTER MY DAD.
Y-YOU REALLY THINK SO?

HOW CAN YOU DO THAT?
IT'S EASY!
I JUST HAVE TO CHANGE THE BAD STUFF INTO GOOD STUFF.
DO YOU EVER WANT TO QUIT?
ISN'T BECOMING THE KING OF ORCHIS REALLY HARD?
...WHAT ABOUT YOU, TWELVE?
I JUST HAVE TO CHANGE MYSELF.
BECAUSE I AM "ORCHIS."

UM...
!
YOU'RE THAT GIRL FROM BEFORE!
DO YOU MIND IF I SIT HERE?
OH...
...WHAT ARE YOU TO TWELVE?
WHAT AM I? WELL...
A FRIEND I GUESS?
WELL, I'M HIS FIANCE!
OH, YOU ARE?
HUH.

TRADITION SAYS THAT TWELVE CAN'T SUCCEED THE THRONE UNLESS HE'S MARRIED.
OH?
WELL, TECHNICALLY, I'M STILL ONLY A POTENTIAL FIANCE.
HEY THERE, MISSY.
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU?!
IS "OH?" ALL YOU CAN SAY?
OH NO!
WE'D BETTER NOT PROVOKE THEM...
THESE ARE THOSE THUGS THAT JUST ARRIVED IN THE CITY.
HAND OVER ALL YOUR VALUABLES.
YOU'RE DRESSED PRETTY FANCY.
STOMP

A FANG LONG?
YOU? DON'T BE SILLY!
HA HA HA HA!
I AM PRINCESS YUAN OF THE HOUSE OF FANG LONG!
YOU OAF!
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?!
YEE-OUCH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BRAT?!
DON'T TOUCH ME, PERVERT!
ARGH! LEGGO OF ME!
TAKE THEM AWAY!
WE TRY TO BE NICE ABOUT IT AND THIS IS WHAT WE GET?
PLEASE SIR, CALL FOR HELP!
H-HE IGNORED ME?!
SAVE US!!
HEY, YOU OVER THERE!
IGNORE

WE CAN'T HAVE YOU CALLING FOR HELP.
WOW, LOOKS LIKE WE JUST SNAGGED OURSELVES A FINE YOUNG GENTLEMAN TOO!
FWIP
DON'T MAKE A SOUND.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING GETTING CAUGHT?!
HANDS OVER YOUR HEAD!
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY WEAPONS, DO YOU?
OH CRAP! OH CRAP! MASTER LUTEEN!

I DON'T THINK YELLING IS GOING TO HELP, YUAN...
I'M GONNA TIE YOU UP AND TOSS YOU IN THE SEA!
YOU'LL PAY FOR DOING THIS TO ME!
LET ME OUT OF HERE!
HEY, YOU BAS-TARDS!
WHAM
WELL, IT'S MY FIRST TIME ON A PIRATE SHIP, SO THERE'S A LOT OF STUFF I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?!
WHY DON'T YOU HELP US THINK OF A WAY OUT?!
WHAT IS THIS?
WHO'S THE SHELTERED ONE HERE, KID?
GRR! GREAT, WE'RE STUCK WITH A SHELTERED RICH BOY! HE'S TOTALLY USELESS!
WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE?
WHAT'S WITH THAT OUTFIT YOU'RE WEARING?

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT BEING RICH?!
I GO OUT FOR A WALK AND THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS!
!!
YOU'RE PRACTICALLY BEGGING TO BE KIDNAPPED IN THAT GETUP.
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, YOU'RE FROM A GOOD FAMILY.
AND JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE ANYWAY?!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO I AM?!
I'M AN
YOU'RE FROM THE HOUSE OF FANG LONG, RIGHT?
I HEARD THEY WERE THE TAIHO'S LEADING BAND OF DESPICABLE ROGUES.
THAT DOESN'T LEAVE YOU MUCH ROOM TO COMPLAIN ABOUT BEING KIDNAPPED.
THEY'LL PROBABLY TIE YOU UP AND TOSS YOU IN THE SEA.
HE ISN'T USELESS LIKE YOU!
TWELVE WILL COME TO MY RESCUE!

TWELVE IS REALLY MANLY AND DEPENDABLE.
HE WAS BORN DESTINED TO BE KING.
AND I WANT TO BE HIS BRIDE.
HE'LL BE THE KINDEST KING IN THE WORLD!
I WAS ABOUT TO DO JUST THAT.
IF YOU'RE THAT GREAT, WHY DON'T YOU GET US OUT OF THIS MESS?!
YOU SURE DO TALK A BIG GAME!
...IT TAKES MORE THAN KINDNESS TO BE A KING.

FLASH
?!
HEY.
SHH
TSS
WHOOM
I THOUGHT THERE WAS A PRINCE COMING TO YOUR RESCUE?
IT'S BEEN PRETTY FUN, KID.
W-WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?!
YOU'RE GONNA LEAVE BEHIND TWO POOR GIRLS AND SAVE YOURSELF?!
HEY, WAIT A SECOND!

?!
HEY, WHERE'D THEY GO?!
THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO EXCAPE!
HUH?
OH...
WAIT!
YUAN!
THEY'RE OVER HERE!
SHH...
ガガガ
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
KOYUKI!
YUAN!

TWELVE?!
YUAN!
...I CAN'T...
OVER HERE! JUMP!

I CAN'T SWIM!
I'M SO SCARED I CAN'T MOVE MY LEGS...
STOMP
WAIT!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE!
TWELVE, I'LL BUY YOU SOME TIME!
KOYUKI ?!
USE IT TO SAVE YUAN!
THAT IDIOT!
WATCH THE SHIP!
YEAH, YEAH
TWELVE?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THEY SAY SHE ISN'T AN ISAIST.
I HEARD SHE'S A WAR ORPHAN.
WHO ARE YOU, MISTER?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME WITH ME?
I CAN DO JUST FINE BY MY-SELF.
I'M FINE ON MY OWN.
DADDY!
MOMMY!
RELY?
YOU'RE STILL ONLY A CHILD, SO YOU SHOULD RELY ON OTHERS MORE.
I'LL ALWAYS BE ON YOUR SIDE.
STARTING TODAY, THESE PEOPLE WILL BE YOUR FAMILY.
NICE TO MEET YOU, KOYUKI.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MISTER?
WHAT? I WANT TO GO WITH YOU!
I DON'T NEED TO RELY ON ANYONE.
...DON'T LEAVE ME HERE!
KOYUKI SURE DOES A GOOD JOB
AND SHE'S NEVER SELFISH WHAT A GOOD GIRL.
I CAN LIVE ON MY OWN.

KOYUKI!
I'M FINE!
WHERE'S YUAN?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU IDIOT?!
WORRY ABOUT YOUR-SELF!
TWELVE ?!
CRACK

...I CAN HANDLE MYSELF.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YOU WEAK-LING?!
YES, I'LL BE FINE...
COME ON, LET'S GO HOME.
...LET GO OF ME.
I'M A STRONG GIRL.
I WON'T BE A BURDEN.
"BURDEN"?

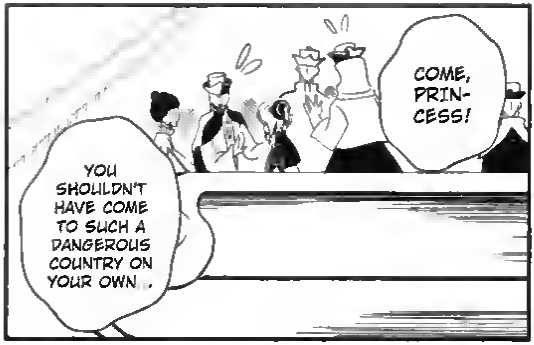
YOU THINK THIS IS A BURDEN?
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME.
SO WHAT IF YOU'RE WEAK?
YOU NEED TO LEARN TO TRUST OTHER PEOPLE.

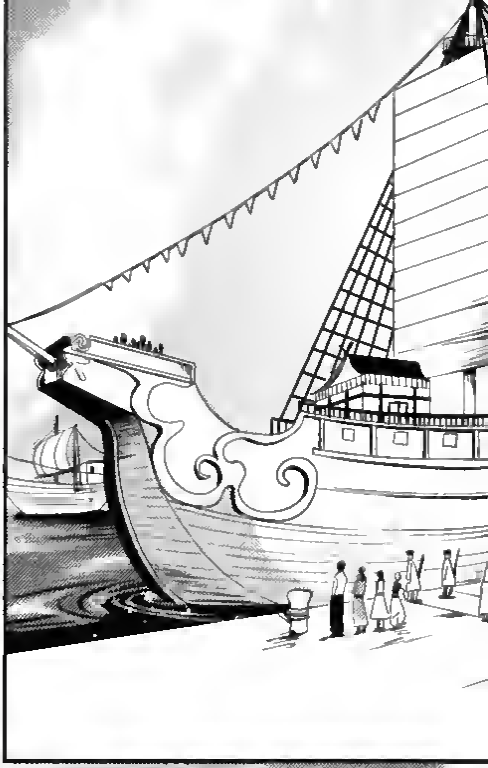
I THINK THAT'S FAR ENOUGH.
CLACK
GET 'EM!
HEY, THEY'RE OVER HERE!
U-
...UWAHH!
WHERE ARE YOU PIRATES FROM?
WHO GAVE YOU PER-MISSION TO BE HERE?
?!

A...
A PAI LONG ?!
WELL...
OH, THERE'S NO REASON TO BE SO AFRAID OF YOUR NEW CONSUL.
NOT THAT I WON'T BE...
MAKING YOU PAY FOR THIS ONE.

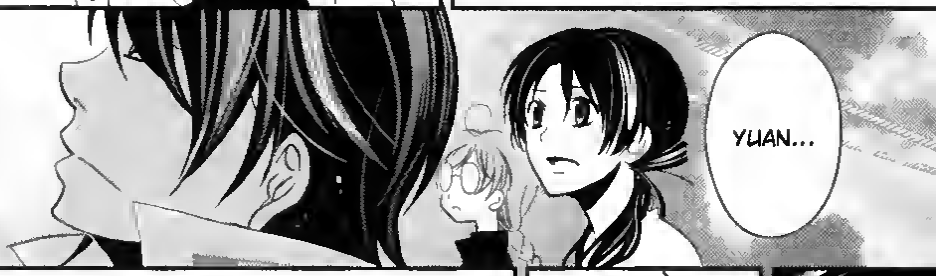
WHERE'D YOU RUN OFF TO?
JUST KILLING SOME TIME.
WAH!
WAH!

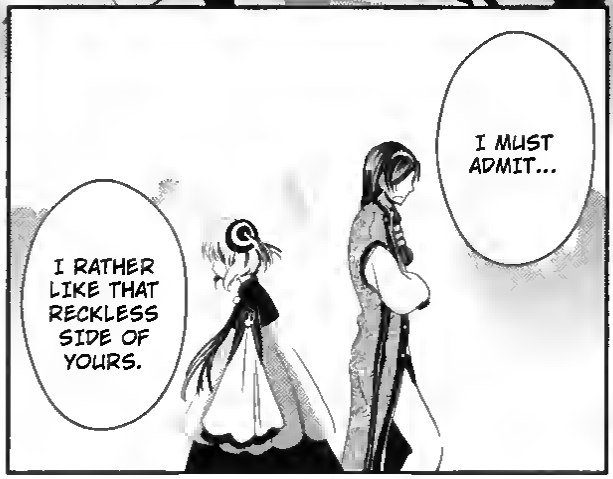
YOU'RE GOING HOME?!
SO MOM AND DAD ARE PROBABLY SEEING RED RIGHT ABOUT NOW!
WELL, I DID LEAVE WITH-OUT PER-MISSION...
DID YOU EAT SOME-THING YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE?
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, YUAN? YOU'RE NOT USUALLY SO OBEDIENT...
...WELL, STAYING HERE WON'T EXACTLY GUARAN-TEE...
THAT PRINCE TWELVE WILL CHOOSE YOU ANYWAY.


COME, PRIN-CESS!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME TO SUCH A DANGEROUS COUNTRY ON YOUR OWN...



WE WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!


YUAN...


I MUST ADMIT...
I RATHER LIKE THAT RECKLESS SIDE OF YOURS.

YOU WON'T REGRET THIS?

ARE YOU GOING TO USE THE FANG LONG NAME...
TO MAKE EXCUSES FOR YOUR BROKEN HEART?
IF IT WERE ME, I'D JUST TAKE WHAT I WANT.
BECAUSE I'M A PIRATE.
WHUMP

WHUMP
PRIN-
CESS?!
WAIT.
SHE CAN'T SWIM!
HURRY! SOMEONE SAVE THE PRINCESS!
WHAT'S SHE DOING ?!
GASP
SPLOOSH

PRIN-
CESS!
...YUAN.
COUGH!
COUGH!
YUAN!
GRAB
SPLASH
SPLASH
WOW,
SO YOU
CAN
SWIM.

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND!
?
I'M A FANG LONG!
AND PIRATES TAKE WHAT THEY WANT!
Y... YEAH?
TWELVE!
GET OFFA ME!

HEY, UGLY! YOUR NAME'S KOYUKI, RIGHT?!

HUH?
UGLY?
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS NOW THAT I'M HERE!
I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT TWELVE...
I KNOW TWELVE A LOOOOOT BETTER THAN YOU DO!
BECAUSE OF YOU, WE HAVE TO REPAIR KOYUKI'S SHOP AGAIN.
...I-I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD HIT ANY-THING!
CRUMBLE
STOP WITH THE FALSE ACCUSA-TIONS.
SHUT UP, PERVERT !!
KOYUKI...

HEY...
WHAT IF IT JUST GETS BROKEN AGAIN?
IS ME DOING
ALL THIS STUFF FOR YOU... A BOTHER?
NOT REALLY!
...WHAT'S GONNA COME FLYING THIS TIME?
HEY! STOP FLIRTING OVER THERE!
HMM?

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER

...THE CAPITAL OF THE ORCHIS EMPIRE, ALLORCHIS.
IT TRULY IS A CASTLE IN THE SAND...
WE'LL PART WAYS HERE
I'LL CHECK IN WITH YOU LATER.
OKAY.
YOU'D BETTER NOT SCREW THIS UP.
SAME TO YOU.

WE, THE ANTI-ROYALIST "MUZAHALLA..."
WILL SECURE "EMIR..."
AND RECREATE "THE MIRACLE OF ORCHIS" WHICH ONCE BLESSED THIS LAND!

CHAPTER 8: THE WANDERERS

YO
THI
THI
IS
BURD
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU IDIOT?!
KOYU!
DAZED
HUH ?!
KOYU!
WH-WHAT IS IT ?!
THEY LOOK EVEN MORE ALIKE THAN THEY DO NOW.
TA-DAH!
LOOK AT THIS ALBUM!
CAN YOU TELL WHICH ONE IS PRINCE TWELVE?

EVEN I CAN'T TELL THEM APART.
AND WHEN THIS WAS TAKEN, MASTER TWELVE WAS THE QUIET ONE.
WOW... I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE THAT.
IS THIS ONE TWELVE?
OH!
WOW, KOYU! THAT'S RIGHT!
W-WELL, I'M THEIR CHILD-HOOD FRIEND, SO...
THERE YOU GO BLUFFING AGAIN...
WHAM
OW!
SHUT UP, GOOD-FOR-NOTHING!
ドカッ
I WON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM TELLING WHICH ONE'S WHICH!
KOYUKI!
THE TAVERN'S REPAIRED, SO GET OUT OF HERE!

I WAS PLANNING ON IT!
THE REPAIRS ARE COMPLETE?

WOO!
YAY!
WHAT IS THAT NOISE?
OH,
PROBABLY THE IMPERIAL TOURNEY.

YES, AND WE WERE THINKING OF HIRING ANOTHER WAITRESS AS WELL.
SHINK
SHICK

THERE ARE MANY SKILLED BEDOUIN WARRIORS GATHERED HERE AS BODYGUARDS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE DESERT CONFERENCE...
SO FOUR DECIDED TO HOLD A TOURNAMENT WITH CASH PRIZES.
WIN THIS TOURNAMENT AND YOU'LL TAKE HOME ONE MILLION COLGAS!

WOO
WOO
THE FINAL MATCH WILL BE BETWEEN BICORN THE NAGI...
AND SILVIE THE NAJM!
...WHY ARE YOU SO PISSED OFF RIGHT FROM THE START?
DON'T LET IT GO TO YOUR HEAD, SILVIE!
HONESTLY! THESE DESERT DWELLERS ARE NO-THING BUT A BUNCH OF SAVAGES!
SO THEY'RE A LITTLE ROWDY. WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
OH, LOOK AT HIM! HE'S A HANDSOME ONE!
BEGIN!
UWO-OAH!

WOOSH
FLIP
OHH ?!
PRINCE...
THAT IS SAKURA'S CHILD-HOOD FRIEND SILVIE.
PO KE
SCHK
THAT DOES IT!
YAY
WOO-HOO!
YAY
WOO
SILVIE IS THE VICTOR!
YAY
SHIT!

YOU DID IT!
THAT'S MY BOY!
THAT'S QUITE A SON YOU HAVE, CHIEF ACAL.
A REWARD?! REALLY?!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET LORD ISA!
YES, SIR!
I'LL GRANT YOU AN ADDITIONAL REWARD BESIDES THE PRIZE MONEY. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU DESIRE?
HMM...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?!
YOU'RE BEING RUDE, SILVIE!
WHY YOU!
ON YOUR KNEES!
SAKURA TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU!
YOU ARE?! THAT'S HILARIOUS!
WHA ?!
OH, ARE YOU THE "SIDE-PART" I'VE HEARD ABOUT, PRINCE?

SAKURA!
...OR SHOULD I SAY, "LADY SAKURA"?
LONG TIME NO SEE. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
LADY SAKURA!
YOU'VE GROWN SO BEAUTIFUL!
I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE PROPOSED TO YOU WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE!
BWAHAHA! REMEMBER YOUR AGE, DAD!
PFFT!
WHAT?! I'M NOT OUT OF THE GAME YET!

I'M SORRY. THEY BOTH HAVE THEIR IDIOSYN-CRASIES..
QUIVER
QUIVER
QUIVER
THE NAJM HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD TO THE ROYAL FAMILY...
AND SILVIE IS THEIR NEXT CHIEF.
AND SINCE HE AND TWELVE ARE ALMOST THE SAME AGE, I DON'T THINK ANY HARM WILL COME OF LETTING THE TWO OF THEM MEET, EIGHT.
Y... YES...
PRINCE FOUR, I HAVE A ANOTHER MATTER TO ATTEND TO, SO IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL BE TAKING MY LEAVE.
OH, REALLY?
NOW, RIGHT THIS WAY, SILVIE.
YOU'RE JUST ALIKE...
WHERE'S THE TRUST?
YOU'D BETTER NOT BE RUDE TO THE PRINCE, SILVIE!
DON'T GET A BIG HEAD BECAUSE WE'RE LETTING YOU DO THIS! BE GRATEFUL!

SAKURA.
...!!
FATHER!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE.
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T COME TO PAY MY RESPECTS.
FORGET IT
I HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOU BECOMING A POTENTIAL FIANCE FOR THE PRINCE.
THIS IS A GREAT HONOR TO OUR PEOPLE.
THIS WILL BE THE PERFECT CHANCE TO REPAY THE DEBT WE OWE THE FIRST LORD ISA FOR GRANTING US THE ESTEEMED POSITION WE ENJOY TODAY.
BECAUSE WE, THE SHAMS PEOPLE, POSSESS A THIRD EYE WHICH GRANTS US THE POWER TO GLIMPSE THE FUTURE,
WE HAVE LONG FACED PERSE-CUTION.
...THERE ARE STILL THOSE WHO HEAP SLANDER AND CRITICISM UPON US, BUT...
DO NOT LISTEN TO WHAT THE OTHER BEDOUIN SAY.

THERE CAN BE NO MISSTEPS.
...YES, SIR.
THE SHAMS NEED THE ROYAL FAMILY'S PROTECTION.
IT IS FOR MY PEOPLE.
IT IS SOMETHING TO BE CELEBRATED.
IT IS SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE AVOIDED.
YES... FATHER.

THE IMPERIAL SWORD, "TAWHID."
I'VE HEARD IT'S USED IN "THE RITE OF SUCCESSION."
THAT IS CORRECT.
IT HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN FROM THE FIRST ISA AS A SYMBOL OF THE SUCCESSOR.
WOW, SO THIS IS THE LEGENDARY IMPERIAL SWORD?
DON'T TOUCH IT WITH YOUR FILTHY HANDS!
JEEZ..
WHAT'S WRONG WITH A LITTLE TOUCH?
YOU CAN TOUCH IT IF YOU WANT, BUT...
PLEASE DON'T BREAK IT.
NOW PRINCE FOUR IS A GUY YOU CAN TALK TO!
OH? IT'S SURPRISINGLY LIGHT!
HI-YAH!
HEY!
YOINK

YOU'RE WIDE OPEN.
TWELVE! THIS IS THE SON OF THE NAJM CHIEF, SILVIE!
HI.
IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.
ISA... SUCCESSOR TO THE ORCHIS THRONE, PRINCE TWELVE.

I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO ASK YOU TOO.
I DON'T GET MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO SPEAK WITH THE DESERT-DWELLING BEDOUIN.
I HEAR MOST OF THE ANTI-ROYALISTS ARE BASED IN THE DESERT.
WHAT IS THE OPINION OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE BEDOUIN, THE NAJM?
THIS MUST BE SAKURA'S FIANCE, THE NEXT EMPEROR.
...IT'S TRUE THAT MOST OF THE BEDOUIN HOLD SOME ANIMOSITY TOWARDS THE THRONE.
THIS MUST BE HIM.

AND THERE ARE THOSE LIKE THE DAWHA WHO HOLD OBVIOUS ANIMOSITY TOWARD THE THRONE.
THERE ARE TRIBES LIKE THE SHAMS WHO HAVE SWORN LOYALTY TO THE CROWN FOR GENERATIONS...
MY FATHER, CHIEF ACAL, IS AN ISAIST MONK,
AND THE NAJM HAVE NO DESIRE TO OPPOSE THE THRONE.
HEY, WATCH YOUR MOUTH!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, EIGHT.
THE BEDOUIN WERE NEVER A HOMOGENEOUS PEOPLE...
AND IT WOULD BE NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT THE IMPERIAL FAMILY HAS ONLY CAUSED MORE DISCORD AMONG US.
THEN WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, NOT AS A MEMBER OF THE NAJM,
BUT PERSON-ALLY?
ME, PERSON-ALLY?

I'D MEET HIM IN PERSON BEFORE MAKING MY DECISION.
I DON'T TRUST THINGS LIKE RUMORS AND MYTHS.
IF IT WERE ME...
ABOUT WHAT KIND OF MAN THE SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE IS.
WHAT KIND OF MAN IS HE?
I'M STILL NOT SURE.
HEH

I GET THAT A LOT.
YOU'RE A FUNNY GUY.
!!
JEALOUS, EIGHT?
WHAT A RUDE MAN!
...CHIEF ACAL, I APPRECIATE YOU MAKING THE LONG TRIP HERE TO SEE ME.
...HAVE YOU FOUND THE "SPIDER" IN QUESTION YET?
NOT YET, THOUGH WE HAVE TRIED MANY METHODS IN OUR SEARCH...

I SEE... THAT IS VERY WORRYING.
IT WAS REPORTED AS AN ACCIDENTAL DEATH, BUT...
THE DEATH OF THE QUEEN FOURTEEN YEARS AGO...
WAS AT THE HANDS OF THIS "ANKABUT."
WE, THE CHURCH OF ISAISM, MUST APPREHEND WITH OUR OWN HANDS...
THE TRAITOR WHO KILLED QUEEN THAMANYA.
YES, SIR!
I EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM YOU, CHIEF ACAL.
HIM, A TRAITOR?
HE WOULD NEVER DREAM OF DOING ANY-THING OF THE SORT.
HE LOVED QUEEN THAMANYA!

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
AN OLD PHOTO ALBUM MICHAELA DRAGGED OUT.
?
...WHICH ONE IS ME?
THE CUTE ONE.
I THINK YOU SHOULD SEE A DOCTOR.
NO, YOU'RE SO CUTE I COULD DIE!
WE BOTH LOOK THE SAME TO ME.

CHIEF ACAL'S SON?
INTER-ESTING IN WHAT WAY?
HE'S THE NEXT CHIEF OF THE NAJM OR SOME-THING.
OH YEAH, I MET AN INTERESTING BEDOUIN TODAY.
HE'S KIND OF UN-CONVENTIONAL, I GUESS.
ONE OF THOSE TYPES YOU DON'T SEE IN THE PALACE.
BUT HE SEEMED SOMEHOW LONELY...
ALMOST LIKE...
YOU'VE ALWAYS LIKED THE BEDOUIN, HAVEN'T YOU?
IT MUST HAVE BEEN MOTHER'S INFLUENCE.
YEAH.
IF THE CHIEF ADOPTED HIM, HE MUST BE QUITE SKILLED.
MONKS AREN'T ALLOWED TO MARRY, SO HE MUST BE ADOPTED.
BUT ISN'T CHIEF ACAL AN ISAIST MONK?
NO...
NEVER MIND.

WHY IN THE WORLD DID YOU BUY ME UNDERWEAR AS A SOU-! VENIR?!
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW HARD IT WAS TO FIND THE RIGHT SIZE.
YOU KNOW...
BECAUSE YOUR CHEST IS SO SMALL IT ISN'T FUNNY.
YOU IDIOT!
バカ!!
WHACK
PFFT!
AH HA HA HA!
PFFT!
HEH HEH HEH HEH!
KH!
SHAKE
SHAKE

JEEZ! YOU'RE STILL THE SAME OLD JOKER!
WELL, I LIKE MAKING YOU LAUGH.
...WE USED TO HAVE SO MUCH FUN.
WE COULD HOLD HANDS...
WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD...
I MET YOUR FIANCE TWELVE TODAY.
HE WAS QUITE A MAN.
HE WASN'T NASTY LIKE EVERY-ONE SAYS.
THE CHIEF WILL BE...
SILVIE...
I...

I...

PER-FECT.
I'M GOING TO THE CITY.
ONCE THERE, I'LL MAKE CONTACT WITH IBLIS...
FWIP
DID ALL GO AS PLANNED?
I MET LORD ISA.
WHAT'S WRONG?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
DON'T TELL ME YOU RAN INTO SAKURA?
DON'T WORRY.
I'VE ALREADY MADE MY DECISION.

I'M WITH THE "MUZA-HALLA."
SAKURA AND I WALK DIFFERENT PATHS.
WE WILL NOW BEGIN THE 24TH DESERT CONFERENCE.
CHATTER
WE ASK FOR YOUR SILENCE!
CHATTER

NOT LIKE THE SHAMS.
CHATTER
THE ANKABUT, EH?
THEY SAY THEY'RE ASSASSINS, BUT ISN'T THAT JUST AN URBAN LEGEND?
THEY'VE LONG BEEN BLATANT ANTI-ROYALISTS.
SO, AS ALWAYS, THE DAWHA AND THE ANKABUT DIDN'T SHOW?
CHATTER
I'VE NEVER EVEN MET ONE OF THE ANKABUT. NOT EVEN ONCE.
CHATTER
WE ASK FOR YOUR SILENCE.
AND NOW...
A MEMBER OF THE SHAMS WILL PERFORM "THE RITE OF FORESIGHT."

I SEE A BRILLIANTLY SHINING METEOR.
SURELY, IT WILL SHINE A LIGHT OF HOPE TO PROTECT THE ORCHIS EMPIRE.
NEXT, A QUICK WORD FROM THE ZELZAL CHIEF..
AHH! MAN, I'M BEAT!

HEY, THEY'RE GONNA HEAR YOU OUTSIDE!
WHAT A FARCE...
I NEED A STIFF DRINK!
SHIT!
THEY TALK BIG ABOUT REPAYING THE FIRST ISA...
BUT THESE SHAMS JUST LET THE ROYAL FAMILY WALK ALL OVER THEM!
HEY!
I BET IT'S ALL A HOAX!
AND THAT WHOLE "POWER OF FORESIGHT" SMELLS FISHY TO ME TOO!
WHA ?!
HA!
CAN'T YOU HALF-BEASTS EVEN SIT QUIETLY?
THIS DESERT CONFERENCE IS JUST A FORMALITY, RIGHT?
IT'S NOTHING BUT SELF-SATISFIED MASTUR-BATION.
YOU PAWN OF THE ISAISTS!
YOU SPEND ALL YOUR TIME COWERING ABOUT UPSETTING THE ROYAL FAMILY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU PEOPLE HAVE THE MOST INFLUENCE AMONG THE BEDOUIN!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR BEDOUIN PRIDE?!
YOU TALK BIG FOR SOMEONE SUCKING UP TO THE ROYAL FAMILY!
SCREW YOU!
FINE WITH ME! LET'S GO OUT BACK!
I'M TIRED OF LISTENING TO YOUR MOUTH!
THUD
CRACK
SHH! THEY'LL HEAR YOU!
SHUT UP! WE'RE USING THEM!
WHA ?!
EVERYONE KNOWS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO COOPERATE!
OW!
ARGH!
ARGH!
A DESERT CONFER-ENCE?!
?
HEY.
WAVE

PRINCE TWELVE?!
HERE.
TOSS
DIDN'T YOU WANT TO TOUCH MY SWORD?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
DON'T TELL EIGHT.
YEAH...

ISN'T THIS HOW YOU GUYS COMMU-NICATE?
WOO
WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING A LITTLE LIVELY?
YOU AREN'T GOING TO STOP THEM?
YAY WOO
TRYING TO GET THEM ALL TO AGREE IS BASICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.
AS YOU SAY, THE BEDOUIN TRIBES EACH HAVE THEIR OWN PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES.
WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A MULTI-CULTURED COUNTRY...
"DUTY"?
...THAT ISN'T MY DUTY.
I HEARD YOU'RE SAKURA'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND?
THE OTHER TRIBES WILL ONLY BECOME MORE ANTAG-ONISTIC TO THE SHAMS IF THEY TRY TO ENTER THE ROYAL FAMILY.

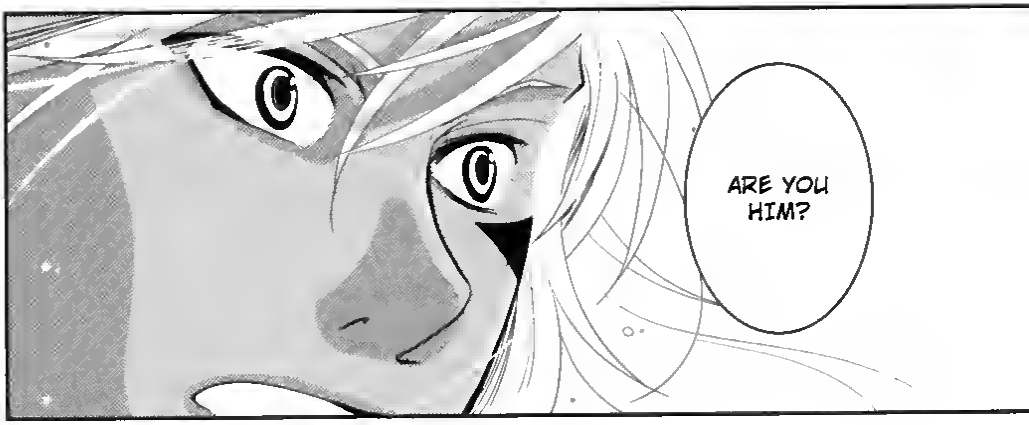
...TO THE BEDOUIN, THE TRIBE MATTERS ABOVE ALL ELSE.
THE CHIEF'S ORDERS ARE ABSOLUTE.
ONE MUST SET ASIDE THEIR PERSONAL FEELINGS FOR THE CAUSE.
YES, SAKURA DEFINITELY HAS A "DUTY."
HER LIFE FOR HER TRIBE.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE A HUMAN SACRIFICE, ISN'T IT?
LIKE YOU?
I THOUGHT I'D HEAR A DIFFERENT OPINION FROM YOU...
SO YOU AND THE BEDOUIN ARE JUST LIKE THE ISAISTS, EH?
WHAT A DRAG.

GRIT
ISN'T THAT PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE?
WHAT IS HE SAY-ING?
YOU REALLY CALL THAT PROTECTING HER?
PROTECTING THE TRIBE PROTECTS WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO ONE'S SELF!
HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE WORRIED ABOUT THE FEELINGS OF ONE OF HIS POTENTIAL FIANCES.
WHY DOES SAKURA LOOK SO UNEASY?
HE'S THE SUCCES-SOR TO THE ENTIRE ORCHIS EMPIRE!
WHAT ABOUT HER FEEL-INGS?
CLENCH
SHE CARRIES THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE TRIBE ON HER SHOULDERS!
DON'T SPEAK OF HER LIGHTLY...

THE SHAMS HAVE SERVED THE ROYAL FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS!
THERE IS NO PLACE FOR THEM IN THE DESERT!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW?!
...IN THE ONE MEMORY I HAVE OF MY MOTHER...
SHE WAS MAKING THE SAME FACE AS SAKURA.

MOTHER...
...A FACE LIKE THE ONE YOU'RE WEARING RIGHT NOW.
LIKE WE ONCE DID...
I KNOW THAT YOU CAN LIVE A MORE FREE LIFE...
IF WE...
IF THIS COUNTRY HAS YOU TRAPPED...
THEN I'LL OPEN A DOOR.

THAT IS WHY I WILL BECOME EMPEROR.
BEDOUIN.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE MY MOTHER, SAKURA, YOU...
I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYONE MAKE THAT FACE AGAIN.



ARE YOU EMIR?

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER (2) END

THE TWELVE HOUR RULER

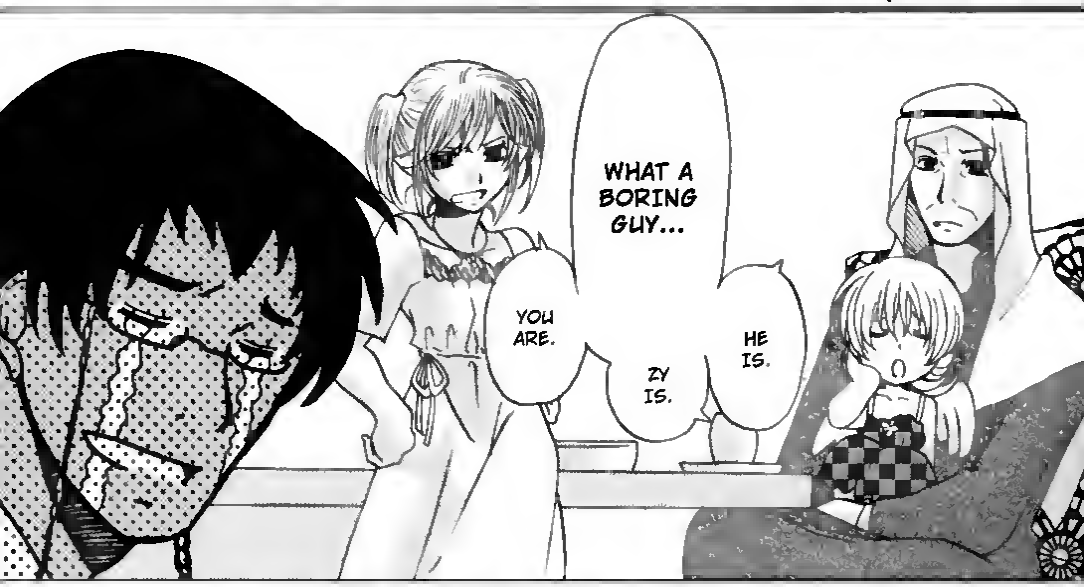
SERIALIZED IN
'NEXTCOMIC FIRST'
AUG. 2010 - DEC. 2010

YOU MAY LEAVE.
HUH?
THAT'S IT? REALLY?
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO PERSUADE ME WITH WORDS?!
WHAT WERE YOU EXPECTING, SON?
SKAZY'S ELEGANT AND SERVILE DAYS

YOU REALLY ARE QUITE STRONG, AREN'T YOU, SIR?
YOU REALLY TOOK ME BY SURPRISE.
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN TREMENDOUSLY POPULAR WITH THE LADIES WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG.
HA HA, NOT AT ALL.
I HEARD YOU WERE ONCE CHASED AROUND BY A WOMAN BRANDISHING A MEAT CLEAVER.
HUH ?!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A MAJOR BLOOD-BATH!
THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN IF YOU DIDN'T CHAT UP EVERY WOMAN YOU SEE!
...NOW, THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY...

NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY NOT TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD, WHEN WOMEN SNAP, THEY SNAP.
AND WHEN THEY STAB, THEY STAB.
AND SO, KNOWING I'LL BE STABBED IN ADVANCE,
I TRAIN MY BODY IN ORDER TO BE READY FOR IT.
...HUH? ISN'T YOUR GOAL A LITTLE OFF THE MARK?
ANYWAY, IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR CAUSING THESE MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN THE FIRST PLACE!
IF YOU AREN'T INTERESTED,
THEN TELL THEM UP FRONT THAT YOU AREN'T INTERESTED!
...NOW, THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY...

GRR!
IF YOU LIVE A CLEAN AND DECENT LIFE, THESE THINGS WON'T HAPPEN TO YOU!
SO FROM NOW ON, LET'S LIVE A STEADY, PEACEFUL, MODEST, INOFFENSIVE LIFE FREE OF SLEEPING AROUND!



...THE WEATHER IS NICE AGAIN TODAY.

AFTERWORD

PLEASE SEND YOUR
THOUGHTS TO:
NEXT@OHZORA.CO.JP

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MIYA / YAMINOTSUKASA / MAO RYUKI /
MIDORI / SAE / TAMAGO / DOLL WORKER
SYSTEM MANAGEMENT / FUNCZION SOUNDS
WITH MARICA / TEAM ONOZUKA / 01882

MY EDITOR, MY FAMILY,
AND EVERYONE ELSE

12時の権力者

2

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